

HONORING OUR FALLEN MILITARY PERSONNEL AT GLENDALE CEMETERY

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 1999

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this weekend, in a solemn ceremony at Glendale Cemetery, families will gather to honor those who gave their lives so that future generations of Americans might live in freedom. America bows its head in thanks to our fallen heroes. With flags at half-mast, with flowers on a grave, and with quiet prayers, we take time to remember their achievements and renew our commitment to their ideals.

Across our country, Americans will be holding similar ceremonies in remembrance of those who have died under the colors of our Nation. We will remember the brave men and women whose sacrifices paved the way for us to live in a country like America. We will remember the families of our fallen heroes, and we will grieve for their losses. We will remember the men and women who are now serving in our Armed Forces.

Throughout our history, we have been blessed by the courage and commitment of Americans who were willing to pay the ultimate price. From Lexington and Concord to Iwo Jima and the Persian Gulf, on fields of battle across our nation and around the world, our men and women in uniform have risked—and lost—their lives to protect America's interests, to advance the ideals of democracy, and to defend the liberty we hold so dear.

For more than 200 years, the United States has remained the land of the free and the home of the brave. The NATO military operations in the former Yugoslavia have reaffirmed that international peace and security depend on our Nation's vigilance. Even in the post-Cold War era, we must be wary, for the world still remains a dangerous place.

This spirit of selfless sacrifice is an unbroken thread woven through our history. Wherever they came from, whenever they served, our fallen heroes knew they were fighting to preserve our freedom. On Memorial Day we remember them, and we acknowledge that we stand as a great, proud, and free Nation because of their devotion.

EXPOSING RACISM

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 1999

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, in my continuing efforts to document and expose racism in America, I submit the following articles into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

REPORTS: STATE OFFICIALS WILL ADMIT THAT RACIAL PROFILING EXISTS

TRENTON, N.J. (AP).—State law enforcement officials this week will grudgingly admit that state troopers unfairly target minority motorists, according to published reports.

Officials in Gov. Christie Whitman's administration told several newspapers that a

report prepared by the Attorney General's office will acknowledge that some troopers have engaged in the practice known as racial profiling.

The same officials said the state will drop its appeal of a 1996 court decision admitting that troopers demonstrated race bias in making arrests along the New Jersey Turnpike in Gloucester County.

Attorney General Peter Verniero's office said his findings on the State Police's training and practices are due out Tuesday or Wednesday.

The report is expected to confirm what civil rights activists said they have known for years.

"Racial profiling is the worst-kept secret in New Jersey," Black Ministers Council of New Jersey executive director Rev. Reginald Jackson told The Star-Ledger of Newark for Tuesday's editions. "I don't think anybody reasonable will say that it doesn't happen."

State Police leaders have consistently argued that the agency does not engage in racial profiling. The issue cost State Police Superintendent Col. Carl Williams his job earlier this year and threatens to impact the political fate of both Whitman, who is expected to run for the U.S. Senate, and Verniero, who has been nominated for the state Supreme Court.

State officials face a Wednesday deadline to decide if they want to continue their appeal of the 1996 decision in state Superior Court in Gloucester County. The court decision, which could affect dozens of pending criminal cases, found evidence of racial profiling.

The newspaper reports come one day after state officials announced official misconduct indictments against the two troopers involved in last year's controversial shooting along the Turnpike in Mercer County.

Troopers John Hogan and James Kenna allegedly made false statements on the race of motorists they pulled over. Such data was being gathered in a State Police traffic stop survey prompted by the 1996 court decision.

Authorities said the indictments against Hogan and Kenna were not directly related to their involvement in the shooting near Exit 7A. Three young minority men were wounded when the troopers fired 11 shots at their van. The troopers said the van had backed up toward them suddenly.

Lawyers for Hogan and Kenna have said the pair are being used as scapegoats in the broader debate over racial profiling. Another lawyer who often represents troopers, Philip Moran, suggested that the real blame lies with the State Police top brass.

"The problem with this is that they indict the troopers at the bottom end," Moran told the Philadelphia inquirer for Tuesday's editions. "They don't indict the supervisors—who taught them to profile, who required them to profile, and who congratulated them for profiling."

The four occupants of the van have said they plan to file civil rights lawsuits against the troopers and the State Police.

The indictments against Hogan and Kenna may prompt courts to dismiss criminal charges against 26 minority defendants arrested by the two troopers in the past two years. Attorneys representing those suspects said prosecutors will be reluctant to call Hogan and Kenna as witnesses now that they face charges themselves.

"I don't think these cases will ever go to trial," defense lawyer John Weichsel told The Record of Hackensack for Tuesday's editions.

Sources told The Star-Ledger that the Attorney General's report will recommend sweeping reforms and continued monitoring of the State Police.

The state legislature's Black and Latino Caucus on Tuesday will host the second

round of its three-day hearings on racial profiling Tuesday in Newark.

BASE OFFICIALS INVESTIGATE RACIAL EPITHETS DRAWN ON SLEEPING MARINE

JACKSONVILLE, N.C. (AP).—Officials at Camp Lejeune are investigating allegations that three white Marines drew racial epithets on the face and arm of a black Marine assigned to their unit.

A 20-year-old black Marine whose name has not been released, reported to city police last week the other Marines wrote the words "KKK" and "nigger" on his forehead and "Go back to Africa" on his left arm as he slept in a motel room.

The Marine told police April 11 he woke up and found the scrawls on his body.

The three white Marines had left the motel when officers responding to the call arrived, "but they left behind the drawing tools apparently used as well as photos they took of the victim as he slept," said Deputy Police Chief Sammy Phillips.

An Onslow County magistrate determined the white Marines could have been charged with assault inflicting injury and ethnic intimidation, a felony. But the victim decided not to press charges.

Instead, he asked Onslow County Magistrate Shelby Jones to contact his battalion commander.

"When he made that decision, I found no probable cause. I did tell him that if the military did not take care of it, the state would," Jones said last week.

Maj. Scott B. Jack, a spokesman on base, said the battalion commander has investigated the allegations and is considering disciplinary action.

"The Marine who was subjected to this indignity has expressed his satisfaction with the action currently being taken by his command," Jack said.

A staff judge advocate is reviewing the case to determine whether it should be turned over to the Naval Criminal Investigation Service.

All four Marines are from the same unit currently deployed with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit to the Mediterranean.

WACO, OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING ANNIVERSARY KEEPS NEARLY ONE-THIRD OF JASPER STUDENTS AT HOME

JASPER, TEXAS (AP).—The school week is getting a later start for many students living near the East Texas scene of a dragging death.

Almost one-third of Jasper students stayed home, fearful that white supremacists would use the anniversary of the Branch Davidian fire in Waco and Oklahoma City bombing to stage another violent event.

Shannan Holmes sent her 8-year-old daughter, Meagan, to the baby sitter with her little brother, Monday instead of the second-grade class at Parnell Elementary.

"I just wanted the peace of mind," she told the Houston Chronicle. "There's all kinds of nasty rumors going around, but I just thought it was better to be safe. It's just one day."

Ms. Holmes said that her daughter could return to school today. Earlier this month, state officials revealed that a racist prison gang member called other like-minded individuals to gather in Jasper on the anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing and Branch Davidian fire for "Jasper tractor pull and drag racing event."

Officials interpreted that to be a veiled reference to the June 7 murder of a Jasper black man, James Byrd Jr., whose body was found torn in two after being dragged behind a pickup truck for nearly three miles.

A pretrial hearing is scheduled today for the second of three white men accused in the murder of James Byrd Jr.